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SOURCE The Road to the Establishment of the Korean Democratic People's Republic. (Chosun Minju Jui Inmin Konghwaguk Bullyo To Kiri)

KIM IL SUNG SUMMARIZES NORTH KOREA'S THREE-YEAR PROGRESS

The following is a summary of Kim Il Sung's speech on the accomplishments of the North Korean Government since the liberation.

Land Reform

Land reform has done away with the long-existing feudal system in Korea and made the farmers independent. This is a new chapter in the history of Korean farmers. Land reform has also become a new symbol of life for North Korean farmers, who are so encouraged that they are now producing a sufficient amount of grains. Thus, we have solved our food problem.

The People's Committee did not stop at land reform. It went ahead with the program of soil conservation, teaching farmers farm management, providing farmers with better farm animals, agricultural tools, seeds and fertilizer, and the Committee continues to work on irrigation projects wherever needed. As a concrete illustration, the People's Committee appropriated in 1947 a sum of 155 million won for irrigation works and more than 442 million won for the year 1948.

As to the cultivated area, the 1948 cultivated area is 104 percent over 1947 or nearly 130 percent over 1946. Even the production of industrial goods was 123 percent over 1947. What these facts indicated is that North Korea's economic program has not only solved the food problem, but it is beginning to supply industrial raw materials in increasing quantity. The better living condition of the North Korean farmers is well exemplified in an agricultural town called Chungsan-ni. There are 120 farms families in this small village. Newspapers are read by more than 40 families; 50 boys and girls go to high school; and every child of school age is attending elementary school. In addition, every family has, at least, one cow, nine hogs and many chickens. Since the land reform, 101,000 new homes have been built in agricultural areas throughout North Korea.

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Industrial Progress

North Korea has made important strides toward industrial progress since the liberation. The People's Committee, upon its realization of the fact that industry, transportation, and postal service constitute the foundation of national reconstruction, has immediately nationalized them. Before their surrender, the Japanese destroyed 19 electric power generating stations, flooded 64 coal and iron-ore mines, destroyed 178 coal mines and 47 iron-ore mines, inflicted partial damage on the Hamhung Chemical Company, Songjin Steel Works, Chongjin Iron Works, Hwanghae Iron Works, Pyongyang Chemical Works, etc., and paralyzed the entire North Korean railroad system. Immediately after the liberation, North Korean economy faced an almost impossible obstacle in trying to overcome these depredations, combined with the fact that there was a complete lack of qualified technicians. With the generous help of the friendly Soviet Union, however, we have reconstructed our industries, 822 of which are in operation as of 1 January 1947.

Economic Index

The people's economic index for the year of 1947 was 102.3 percent over 1946, and the total economic production figure for the first half of 1948 has reached 101.3 percent over the same period of 1947. Especially notable progress was made in 1947 by the electric power industry, 111.9 percent; lustrous metal industry, 103.3 percent; steel industry, 109.3 percent; chemical industry, 110.4 percent. The first one-half year industrial progress of 1948, when compared with the parallel period of 1947, has made an amazing record of 174.3 percent, and the production of machineries in 1947 was 132 percent over the year of 1944. The above-mentioned factors have helped to bring about a higher standard of living, which was greatly aided by currency reform in 1947.

Currency Reform

Currency reform played a very significant part in bringing down the cost of food with a decrease, ranging from 20 to 40 percent. As it is well remembered by all of us, the recent big price cut on commodities has greatly improved living conditions of laborers and office workers. By raising living and cultural standards, North Korea has not only licked the unemployment problem, but to the contrary are now faced with a shortage. Laborers and office workers, in addition to gains mentioned above, are given free of payment the buildings and houses formerly owned by the Japanese.

Social Insurance

Social insurance payments in 1947 amounted to 229,500,000 won, while in 1948 the total amount of payments has reached 264 million won. During the days of Japanese administration, there was no such thing as sanitariums and old age homes, but today there are many of each everywhere throughout North Korea.

Education

Our healthy national recovery during the past 3 years was not limited to the fields of agriculture and general economy alone, but the same progress was noted in the field of education. The People's Committee is making its utmost efforts to expand school facilities so that our future citizens may be well educated. When the Japanese surrendered,

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there were more than 2,300,000 illiterates in North Korea alone. The first step the People's Committee undertook was to increase adult education to eliminate illiteracy, and during the past 3 years we have succeeded in teaching more than 2,100,000 persons who can now read and write. Today, we have only about 200,000 illiterates in North Korea.

In 1942, there were 1,008 elementary schools in North Korea. Today, there are 3,206. In 1942, there were 43 high schools, but in 1948 we have 674 and plans are now being completed to run 725 high schools beginning in 1949. During the days of Japanese administration, there was only one college in North Korea, but today we have one university and five colleges. The 1949 academic year will begin with one university and 10 colleges.

The People's Committee has been working unceasingly in an attempt to encourage higher education ever since the liberation, and today, more than 16,000 university and college students are getting free education under the National Scholarship system, and 440 students are studying in the Soviet Union universities.

Cultural activities

Prior to our liberation, there were no cultural clubs of any sort in North Korea, but in 1947, there were 8,985 people's propaganda clubs in North Korea, and in 1948 we have 13,326 such clubs. There were only seven libraries in North Korea before 15 August 1945, but there were 35 libraries in 1946, and in 1948 we have 103 libraries. Before the liberation, there were 76 playhouses and theaters in North Korea but today, we have 113. Even in the field of public health, there is no town in North Korea today without a medical clinic, and the number of hospitals is growing steadily. These are, in brief, the accomplishments of North Korea since our liberation.

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